

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
MARINE RESOURCES CENTER
CHARLESTON COUNTY
MAY 5, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Julia Krebs
Ken Rentiers
Jake Rasor
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)
Steve Tully
Julien Springs
Bob Perry (for Alvin Taylor)
Tom Patton (for Gene Kodama)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Campbell Coxe (Chair)
Eric Emerson
States Clawson (for Bobby Hitt)
Sonny King
Jonathan Leader
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)
Randy Lowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Sean Taylor
Meg Gaillard
Tariq Ghaffar
Nick Moskos
Kay Daniels
Julie Holling
Kathy Boyle
Bert Pittman
Phil Maier
Dave Whitaker
Dean Harrigal
James Fowler
Karen Rouk
Felicia Sanders
Janet Thibault
Roger Hux
Blaik Keppler
Holly Carpenter
Sara Brown

Call to Order

Dr. Krebs chaired the meeting in Chairman Campbell's absence. Dr. Krebs called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Bob Perry, Director of Environmental Programs for DNR, stated he was glad to have Holly Carpenter, Project Manager, and Sara Brown, Hydrologist with the Corps of Engineers, at the meeting. Mr. Perry reported they would be giving a report at the end of the meeting on the Post-45 dredging project in the Charleston Harbor.

Dave Whitaker, Assistant Deputy Director of Marine Resources, welcomed everyone to Fort Johnson. He gave a brief description of the facilities and explained the different types of work done there.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Krebs asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the February 4, 2016, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 4, 2016, meeting, as submitted. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Board Information Items

Update on Heritage Preserve List

Ken Rentiers handed out an updated Heritage Preserve list to the Board. He thanked Julie Holling for her efforts in putting this together and stated it is a good guide to all the preserves.

Overview of Coastal Heritage Preserves

Dean Harrigal, Wildlife Coordinator, Region 4, gave an overview of the properties within the region. He stated it extends from the Little River to the Savannah River and inland into Colleton and Berkeley Counties. Region 4 personnel manages more than 100,000 acres of state owned land and combined with the barrier islands, it is about 125,000 acres.

James (Trapper) Fowler, Heritage Preserve Coordinator for Region 4, reported on the various heritage preserves he manages, which include: Lewis Ocean Bay, Waccamaw River, Little Pee Dee, Cartwheel Bay, Dungannon Plantation, Crosby Oxypolis, Tillman Sand Ridge, Victoria Bluff and the ACE Basin. His job duties include habitat management, wildlife management, surveys, research, education and outreach. He briefed the Board on various projects being conducted at several of the preserves.

Phil Maier, Director of Coastal Reserves and Outreach for DNR's Marine Resources Division, gave a brief overview on the ACE Basin and Botany Bay. He stated that Botany Bay had approximately 70,000 visitors this year and it is now one of the most important sea turtle nesting beaches outside of Cape Island.

Mr. Maier stated that there are many management challenges for these coastal properties. Some general considerations for management include: 1) maintaining a well-grounded perspective on what to do on these properties; 2) formalizing an approach in program documents; 3) dealing with reliable, objective information; 4) developing

relationships with experts, 5) cultivating partners and champions who understand and value the work; and 6) bringing forth the proper perspective from the property manager.

Felicia Sanders, Region 4 Wildlife Biologist, gave a brief overview of the Crab Bank Seabird Sanctuary. It is a small island in Charleston Harbor that last year harbored approximately 600 pelican nests, 1,200 terns and 50-100 black skimmers. American oystercatchers and many other seabirds nest there as well. The sanctuary is closed while the birds are nesting March 15 – October 15. The birds utilize the entire island while nesting and video cameras have been installed to view live footage of them. The footage will soon be available to view on DNR's website.

Sean Taylor, Heritage Trust Archaeologist, introduced the newest addition to his staff, Nick Moskos, who manages six coastal properties from Charleston to Beaufort. Mr. Taylor reported archaeologist Tariq Ghaffar has been investigating the history of the Wateree River Heritage Preserve and is putting together a scope of work for further research. He noted archaeologist Meg Gaillard has almost finished the recovery of the artifacts affected by last year's flood. All washing has been completed and 1,000 boxes have been stored. Approximately 135 volunteers helped with the project over a six-month period and six part-time staff members worked three days a week. Mr. Taylor reported they had examined a building in West Columbia for utilization as an office and storage facility for archaeology staff. It is armory style building constructed in 1939-1940 and contains 14,000 square feet. The owners are receptive to entertaining an offer and an appraisal will need to be done. Mr. Taylor stated tabby restoration work at Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve has begun and should be completed in three to four weeks. An underwater archaeological survey is scheduled for later this month at Fort Frederick and an updated management plan will be completed for review prior to the next meeting. In the coming year, Mr. Taylor said staff would like to do a systematic archaeological survey on four to five acres of upland at Fort Lamar Heritage Preserve. A structural report from engineers has been received on restoration at Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve and their suggestions will be reported at a later date. Mr. Taylor stated timber is scheduled to be harvested on Bear Branch Heritage Preserve within the next year.

Executive Session

At this time, Mr. Springs made a motion that the Board hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Mrs. Hurley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board return to regular session, noting that no actions were taken during Executive Session. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Action Items

Mr. Rasor made a motion to recommend to the SC DNR Board that staff proceed with due diligence with regard to the acquisition of a property and building in West Columbia, South Carolina to house the DNR Archaeological Division staff along with display and storage. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Mr. Perry reported he has been working with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) on acquiring the Browder Tract at Henderson Heritage Preserve in Aiken County. They have acquired the tract and it will be transferred to SCDNR no later than January 2017. Mr. Perry stated DNR's partnership with DOT has progressed and staff now meet with them on a regular basis and they recently attended a joint mitigation workshop that was given by Federal Highways Administration in early April. DNR is currently discussing additions to existing heritage preserves in the upstate where DOT has some mitigation needs. Mr. Perry added there are some properties held by Naturaland Trust that could positively affect the acreage of Ashmore, Bunched Arrowhead and Chandler Heritage Preserves if agreed upon successfully.

Holly Carpenter and Sara Brown, both with the Corps of Engineers, gave a brief report on the Post-45 dredging project at Charleston Harbor. Post-45 is the future deepening project where the Charleston Harbor will be dredged to accommodate Post-Panamax cargo vessels. Several handouts were given to the Board. Holly is the Post-45 project manager and Sara is the Charleston District's hydrologist. Holly thanked DNR staff who had been working with the interagency team on Post-45 issues. She specifically discussed how the Charleston District is examining opportunities to utilize dredged spoil from the project to the beneficial uses of building up and stabilizing Crab Bank Heritage Preserve. Sara discussed the types of sediment in the Charleston Harbor. While the sediment is not as coarse-grained as would be most desirable for nourishing Crab Bank, analysis has determined much of it is suitable. Further analyses are forthcoming to refine the quantity estimates. Sara and Holly co-presented a conceptual model for nourishment of Crab Bank, and they indicated this work will continue.

Phil Maier announced that the field trip to Crab Bank planned for the afternoon had been cancelled due to cool temperatures and a small craft advisory.

Updates and Comments

Ken Rentiers distributed the Heritage Trust revenue report and noted income has continued to increase and it has been a very long time since these figures have been seen. He stated this bodes well for projects going forward.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, August 4, 2016 in Columbia.

Adjourn

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, *Mr. Rasor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Springs seconded the motion, and the motion carried.*

/k